

Pueblo exchange

A Partnership for Safe Chemical Weapons Destruction

New Name, New Challenges, Continued Commitment

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Summer 2003

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Pueblo Chemical Depot Community Outreach Office

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Pueblo, CO 81003

(719) 546-0400

Hours 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m., M–F

Other hours by appointment

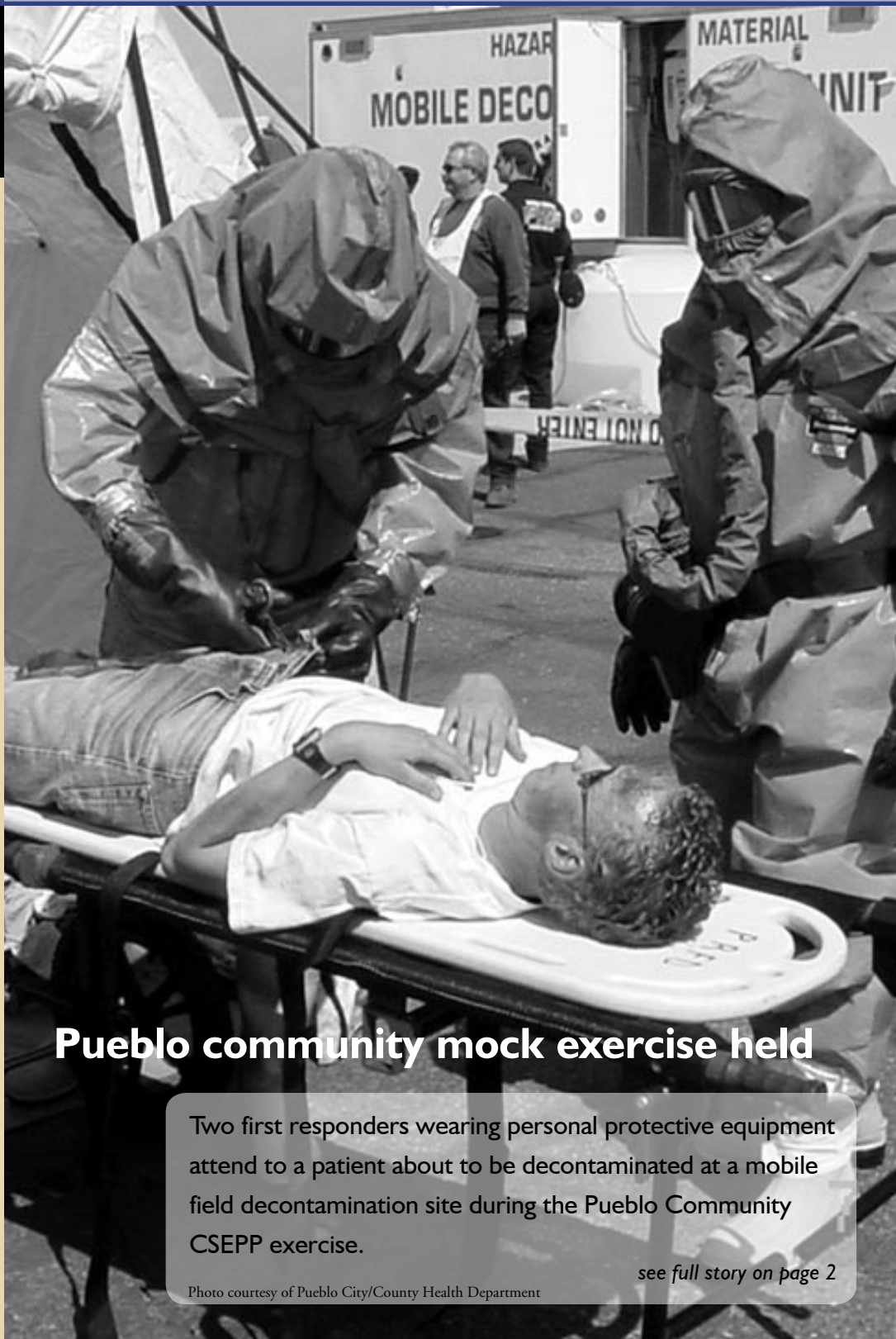
Pueblo Chemical Depot Public Affairs Officer

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Program Manager Assembled
Chemical Weapons Alternatives

www.pmacwa.army.mil



Pueblo community mock exercise held

Two first responders wearing personal protective equipment attend to a patient about to be decontaminated at a mobile field decontamination site during the Pueblo Community CSEPP exercise.

see full story on page 2

Photo courtesy of Pueblo City/County Health Department

Government site project manager selected to lead Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant



Gary M. Anderson has been selected as site project manager for the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant. Anderson will be the lead government engineer responsible

for management of the pilot plant's field office and oversight of the systems contract with Bechtel Pueblo.

A native of Connecticut, Anderson's Army civilian career began in 1983. Most recently, he held the position of deputy site project manager at the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, located near Hermiston, Ore. He also held engineering positions at Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System in the Pacific and at Rocky Mountain Arsenal, near Denver, Colo.

He holds a master's degree in Environmental Engineering from the Colorado School of Mines and a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Nebraska. Among his career awards are the Superior Civilian Service Award and two Commander's Awards for Civilian Service.

Anderson will join the Pueblo team on July 27 and will report to the Program Manager Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives headquartered in Aberdeen, MD.

Pueblo community holds mock exercise

Exercise, continued from cover

The Pueblo Community Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) conducted an exercise May 7 to provide emergency response agencies the opportunity to test and improve coordinated plans and procedures in case of an accident or disaster.

This county-wide event involved approximately 450 volunteer and professional representatives from local, state and federal emergency response agencies.

"Participating in these exercises is an excellent opportunity for the local community to work together to test and improve emergency plans and procedures," said Rochelle Cruz, public information officer, Pueblo County Department of Emergency Management.

"The lessons learned from these simulated events are invaluable and allow us to make on-going improvements to better protect our community," she added.

The Pueblo County exercise began with a simulated accident involving the stored chemical munitions at the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot. This simulation initiated a chain of events involving multiple response agencies. Federal evaluators from across the country were on-site to assist with monitoring and evaluating all actions in order to provide useful feedback.

At noon, 19 outdoor warning sirens located in northeast Pueblo County were activated and tested with a full 120-decibel tone, followed by a test message. The state, county and depot Emergency Operations Centers coordinated exercise response efforts. Tone Alert Radios

were also activated with a test message.

The Southeastern Chapter of the American Red Cross opened a shelter and reception centers. Mobile decontamination sites were established to perform simulated decontaminations. In a coordinated effort, Pueblo's two hospitals played a major role in evaluating, decontaminating and treating multiple simulated injuries during the exercise.

"Participating in these exercises is an excellent opportunity for the local community to work together to test and improve emergency plans and procedures"

*- Rochelle Cruz,
public information officer, Pueblo County
Department of Emergency Management*

A Joint Information Center set up for the mock exercise at the Pueblo campus of Colorado State University kept the public and mock media informed during the event.

The next CSEPP exercise in Pueblo is scheduled for May 19, 2004.

For more information regarding the CSEPP exercise and program, please contact Rochelle Cruz at (719) 583-6222.

Welcome to the *'exchange'*

The *'exchange'* newsletter replaces the **REACH** newsletter, which had been the primary source for chemical weapons disposal information in Pueblo since 1996.

The new look and new name reflect recent changes in the chemical weapons disposal program.

The Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) program is now in charge of overseeing the destruction of chemical weapons stored at Pueblo Chemical Depot. The ACWA program is well known for its strong public involvement program. Utilizing both national and local dialogues, ACWA has set a new standard for public involvement.

The *'exchange'* newsletter is just that, an exchange with the community of Pueblo. Although this newsletter is a vehicle for keeping the community informed, it is only the first step in a dialogue — a dialogue that encourages citizen input and involvement.



Photo by Jenna Meyers

Members of the Colorado Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC) link the Pueblo community and the Army by providing a forum for exchanging information about chemical weapons disposal.

Please feel free to contact the Pueblo Chemical Depot Community Outreach Office with your ideas, questions and concerns. We welcome your exchange of ideas.

Along with the name change, we have created a new and improved public web site that has been designed to provide up-to-date information pertaining to:

- Disposal plans
- Upcoming program activities
- Opportunities for public involvement

Visit www.pmacwa.army.mil to learn more about the chemical weapons disposal program for Pueblo Chemical Depot.

Contact Information

If you have questions about ACWA, or its new name and web site, contact:

- **Program Manager Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives Public Affairs Office** at (410) 436-3398.
- **Pueblo Chemical Depot Community Outreach Office** at (719) 546-0400, or visit us at 301 North Main Street, Suite 306B, Pueblo, CO 81003.
- **Pueblo Chemical Depot**
Marilyn Thompson, Public Affairs Office
U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot
45825 Highway 96 East Pueblo, CO 81006
(719) 549-4135

Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives Program

Background

Congress established the Assembled Chemical Weapons Assessment Program (ACWA) in 1997 to safely test and demonstrate at least two alternative technologies to the baseline incineration process for demilitarization of the nation's stockpile of assembled chemical weapons. Assembled chemical weapons are configured with fuses, explosives, propellant, chemical agents, shipping and firing tubes and packaging materials.

After successfully demonstrating three technologies in 1999 and three more in 2000, the ACWA program determined that four of them were viable for pilot testing:

- neutralization/biotreatment,
- neutralization/supercritical water oxidation,
- electrochemical oxidation with silver and nitric acid, and
- neutralization/transpiring wall supercritical water oxidation/gas phase chemical reduction.

Congress authorized ACWA to manage the development and pilot-scale testing of these technologies in 1999. In 2003, ACWA was assigned responsibility for full-scale pilot testing of neutralization technologies to destroy the chemical weapons stockpiles at the Pueblo Chemical Depot in Colorado and Blue Grass Army Depot in Kentucky.

This required the ACWA team to shift its focus from assessing chemical weapons disposal technologies to implementing full-scale pilot testing of alternative technologies at these sites. As a result, the program changed its name to Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives, to better reflect its new program goals.

Public Involvement

The ACWA program attributes its success in identifying safe and effective alternatives for chemical weapons destruction to a commitment to meaningful stakeholder input and involvement. Public involvement efforts began in 1997 when ACWA program leaders implemented an innovative, open and fully participatory public process called the ACWA Dialogue. The ACWA program

continues to work closely with stakeholders by implementing community forums at each site to:

- share next steps with the community regarding chemical demilitarization,
- facilitate communication between ACWA and the community,
- assist the community in notifying ACWA of areas of interest, and
- determine mechanisms to allow the community and ACWA to work together effectively.

Pueblo Chemical Depot, Colorado

The Pueblo Chemical Depot stores approximately 8 percent of the nation's stockpile of chemical weapons. The ACWA program has worked together with the community to select a safe technology—neutralization/biotreatment—to destroy the chemical weapons stored there. In September 2002, Bechtel Pueblo was selected as the systems contractor to design, construct, operate and close the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant.

Here is how neutralization followed by biotreatment works:

- Hot water is used to neutralize the chemical agent, effectively destroying the chemical agent molecules. The resulting hydrolysate, or neutralized byproduct, consists of mostly water and thiodiglycol, a common industrial chemical that is readily biodegradable.
- Ordinary sewage treatment bacteria, or microbes, consume the thiodiglycol in the hydrolysate. Besides being a common phenomenon in nature, the science of using microbes to help dispose of hazardous waste has existed for decades. Sewage treatment facilities across the country use microbes every day to help break down raw sewage.



Bechtel's Supplier Advocate Michele Jacobus provides hands-on training to local business owners Philip Beauvais, ABC Plumbing, and Donna Bottini, Bottini Wood Products, in registering their businesses with the Bechtel Pueblo Team at Pueblo Community College.

Bechtel Pueblo hosts vendor forums

Approximately 180 local contractors and suppliers took advantage of the first in a series of vendor forums presented by the Bechtel Pueblo Team at Pueblo Community College in May.

As part of the 90-minute hands-on training session, Bechtel's Supplier Advocate, Michele Jacobus guided local business owners and managers through the on-line registration process using Bechtel's brand new supplier and contractor portal.

Up for bid is a variety of contracts for the estimated \$1.5 billion project to construct the chemical demilitarization facility and to destroy the mustard agent stored at the Pueblo Chemical Depot. "The Bechtel Pueblo Team is committed to working with as many local companies as possible," said Jacobus.

As Bechtel's Supplier Advocate, Jacobus describes her role as "assisting local businesses to understand what kinds of goods and services are needed for this project and how to supply us (Bechtel) with their company's information, which will enable them

to submit their bids." Jacobus plans to offer on-going monthly vendor forums depending on the local demand and the new information available.

For more information about registering your company with the Bechtel Pueblo Team, please contact Michele Jacobus at (719) 543-7118 in Pueblo, or e-mail her at mjacobus@bechtel.com.

To register your company using the supplier and contractor portal, visit <https://supplier.bechtel.com>.

Upcoming Subcontracting Opportunities

- Site Survey
- Environmental survey
- Background soil survey
- Geotech services
- Facilities Construction Certification (FCC) Engineering Services

Reviewing acceleration options

After the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, the Army immediately undertook specific measures to ensure the continued security of the nation's chemical weapons stockpile. Because the complete destruction of the stockpile offers the best security and protection that can be achieved, the Department of Defense directed the Army and the Program Manager Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives to accelerate destruction of the chemical weapons stockpile located at Pueblo Chemical Depot.

Various acceleration options were discussed during the second Colorado Community Forum held in June 2002. Many of those options are now in place, such as innovative approaches to regulatory permitting.

The remaining and most controversial acceleration options involve the off-site shipment of waste products. Existing processing facilities are already permitted; however, community members have voiced concerns about safety, loss of jobs and sending Pueblo's wastes to other communities. At the meeting, no data was available comparing the costs and benefits of off-site shipment.

The Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC) agreed to a workgroup with the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) team to study these issues. The results of the workgroup's research, along with additional studies, will be presented and discussed during the July 26 community forum. At that meeting, a community-based recommendation likely will be reached regarding accelerated destruction of Pueblo's chemical weapons.



Pueblo

exchange

New Name, New Challenges, Continued Commitment

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The Program Manager Assembled Chemical Weapons **Assessment** (ACWA) team is shifting its focus from assessing chemical weapons disposal technologies to implementing full-scale pilot testing of alternative disposal technologies in Colorado. ACWA now stands for Assembled Chemical Weapons **Alternatives**, to better reflect current program goals. For more information, please see the enclosed insert.

Community forum slated for July 26

All citizens are invited to attend the 2003 Pueblo Chemical Weapons Community Forum to discuss various alternatives to accelerate the destruction of the chemical weapons stored at Pueblo Chemical Depot on Saturday, July 26, 2003 at the Pueblo Convention Center.

The forum is co-sponsored by the Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC), a group of nine members who represent the community's interests, and the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) program, a Department of Defense agency tasked with overseeing the disposal of chemical weapons in Colorado and Kentucky.

Members from the Bechtel Pueblo Team will be on hand. Bechtel Pueblo is the systems contractor that will build and operate the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP).

Approximately 50 key community leaders have been invited to guide the dialogue. Opportunities for public comment will be encouraged throughout the event.

The forum is scheduled at the Pueblo Convention Center from 9:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. Registration is required. For Information contact Pueblo Chemical Depot Community Outreach Office at (719) 546-0400. *See related article on acceleration options on page 3.*

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